

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL P-16 COUNCILS

Update

Since the P-16 Council's March meeting, another proposal for a local council has been funded. Two other proposals are being revised, and four are in review. Other councils are in planning stages in conjunction with the development of the public communication campaign's model communities.

Lexington Area P-16+ Council - \$7,000

Fayette County Public School District and Central Kentucky Technical College have taken the lead in inviting the University of Kentucky, Lexington Community College, the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce, Transylvania University, Georgetown College, other civic, business, and labor groups, and several school districts to form a P-16+ council. The group will encompass Bourbon, Clark, Jessamine, Fayette, and Woodford counties and the Paris independent school district. Their focus is on increasing student readiness for postsecondary study, reducing the achievement gap, and raising the academic expectation levels of students and their parents from kindergarten on. They will:

- Conduct workshops in community centers and churches to reach parents.
- Hold regular gatherings of educators and business leaders in each of the participating school districts hosted by the local chambers of commerce to link academic achievement to careers.
- Pilot a mathematics curriculum alignment project with middle and high school teachers and university faculty, building on the work of the state P-16 Council's alignment teams.

Since the Council on Postsecondary Education initiated this program in March 2001, seven local or regional councils have been funded. In conjunction with the development of the public communication campaign model communities, several other communities are in the process of developing local councils. (See attached map.)

Kentucky has taken the next step in developing P-16 community alliances throughout the state by developing a network of local councils so they can share good ideas and information with each other and with the state P-16 Council. Representatives of Kentucky's local and regional P-16 councils met March 3-6, 2002, in New Orleans at The Educational Trust's annual conference specifically devoted to local P-16 council issues. They exchanged ideas with others across the nation doing this work.

In addition, more than 40 of Kentucky's local P-16 council representatives gathered in Northern Kentucky May 9, 2002, for a mini-summit on P-16 issues. This event was hosted by Barbara Stonewater, Executive Director of the Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education, and co-sponsored by the Council on Postsecondary Education. Nevin Brown of The Education Trust was keynote speaker. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives of local groups to learn from one another and to develop a way to communicate with the state P-16 Council. The attendees decided to focus efforts on: obtaining more, and more easily accessible, data at the state level to track local student achievement and subsequent employment; identifying better measures of teaching effectiveness; and developing a listserv and regular means of communication among local P-16 council representatives and with the state P-16 Council.

Dianne Bazell and Lois Adams-Rodgers will be joined by Alvin Moore, Paducah Community College, and Gary Wiseman, Fayette County Public Schools, to describe the ongoing work of the local councils.

